

determined to make its operations more efficient and effective. Her passion stems from her professional career as an attorney where she encountered numerous cases of minors that had been negatively impacted by a parent under correctional supervision. She personally committed herself to the GOKIDS (Giving Offenders' Kids the Initiative and Direction to Succeed). Initiative, which launched in 2004 and is dedicated to reaching out to the offenders and their families. Christina foresaw a safer and better Texas and a brighter future for all Texans and took every effort to make this goal a reality. The State of Texas has greatly benefited from her dedication, passion, leadership and her vision.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Christina on her hard work and dedication that has led to this great honor.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This legislation will put an end to pay disparities based merely on gender and ensure that employee rights enforced through the Equal Pay Act fulfill the act's original intent. Specifically, this legislation will require employers to prove that pay disparities between men and women have a business justification.

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics, year-round full-time female workers make 77.8 percent to the dollar of their male counterparts. Specifically, the median income for year-round full-time male workers is \$45,113. In contrast, the median income for year-round full-time female workers is \$35,102. Based solely on statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, the apparent wage disparities between men and women clearly indicate that the provisions contained within the Equal Pay Act need to be revised.

I believe that this legislation will strengthen current law to make certain that wage discrimination based on gender ceases to exist.

Before I close, I would like to thank Representative ROSA DELAUNO for having introduced this legislation since 1997 and praise her for being a champion of this issue.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting in support of this important measure to ensure its swift passage.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the National Service Caucus, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 43, recognizing the importance of national service,

supporting the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day, and promoting the Martin Luther King Day holiday as a day of national service.

During the 1950s and '60s, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. King's ideas of unity and purpose highlighted the great things that can happen when we work together toward a common goal, and these ideas are as important today as they were 50 years ago.

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act to transform the King Holiday into a national day of service to meet community needs. Since that time, millions of Americans have participated in community-building activities on King Day, treating the holiday as "a day on, not a day off."

The day before President-elect Obama's inauguration is the Martin Luther King holiday. With thousands of projects planned across the country, in addition to a call to serve from President-elect Obama, the 2009 King Day of Service on January 19 promises to be the most successful national service effort to date.

Both President-elect Obama and Vice-President-elect Biden, along with their families, will be participating in service events to honor Martin Luther King and commemorate the holiday. I encourage my colleagues and their staff to share in the spirit of volunteerism and unity by participating in a service opportunity here in Washington, DC, or back home with their constituents on January 19.

I am pleased that the President-elect has been part of the call to ensure that this day be a day devoted to service. However, I know, as President-elect Obama knows, that one day of good deeds is not enough. Throughout the presidential campaign, the President-elect spoke about a new era of civic engagement, and I hope that the passage of H. Res. 43 will build on Martin Luther King day and the Inauguration and reaffirm our ongoing commitment to service.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICES OF JOHN DE LORENZO, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD IN CALIFORNIA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John De Lorenzo as he retires after 18 years of public service with the city of Fairfield.

Mr. De Lorenzo's career with Fairfield began when he was hired as the city's community services director in 1990. During his tenure, the Community Services Department was recognized with many State-wide, regional and national awards including two Helen Putnam Awards of Excellence from the League of California Cities.

In addition to his outstanding service in Fairfield, Mr. De Lorenzo has also served as both the president and the administrators' representative of the California Park and Recreation Society, District 1, and was a member of the Annual Conference Planning Committee for the California Park and Recreation Society.

He has also served as a member of the League of California Cities Administrative Services Policy Committee, and also was a member of the Annual League Conference Planning Committee.

The honors and awards Mr. De Lorenzo helped bring the Fairfield Community Services Department and his involvement with the numerous committees he has served on over the years are a testament to his hard work and dedication to local concerns.

As John De Lorenzo retires from his position as the director of the Fairfield Community Services Department, I would like to thank him for his leadership and dedication to improving the quality of life for the residents of the city of Fairfield. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday January 13, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 11 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 41), "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 12 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 50), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 13 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 43).

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. ROBERT J. SMITHDAS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding humanitarian, Dr. Robert J. Smithdas, whose personal accomplishments and dedication to the U.S. deaf-blind community are truly remarkable. Dr. Smithdas is retiring as director of Community Education at the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, HKNC, after many years of dedicated service.

Having contracted meningitis at the age of four, Dr. Smithdas eventually suffered a total loss of both vision and hearing. With great determination, he embraced educational opportunities at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind and the Perkins School for the Blind. Assisted by individualized instruction and speech therapy, Dr. Smithdas thrived in scholastics, earning an average of 98.6. After graduating in 1945, he was accepted to the Industrial Home for the Blind, IHB, and earned a fellowship to St. John's University in New York. Dr. Smithdas earned his BA cum laude in 1950 and later attended New York University, where he became the first deaf-blind individual to earn a master's degree. Dr. Smithdas also earned honorary doctoral degrees from Galaudet University, Western Michigan University, Mount Aloysius College, and St. John's University.